



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A buckle, including an auxiliary locking feature, includes a female buckle part (11), including a bolt or strap receiving portion (13, 15) and a body portion defining a recess (R) for receiving a mating portion of a male buckle part (12) and a pair of edge recesses (21, 23) the male buckle part also having a strap-receiving portion (14, 16), and a pair of flexible female buckle-engaging prongs (20, 22) having catches (40, 42) which snap over mating recesses of female member (11). The male member (12) also has a resilient cantilevered tongue (26) carrying a release button (30), extending through an opening 31 in the front of the female part 11, the tongue (26) including integral stop members (32, 34). Prongs (20, 22) include bosses (36, 38) which engage the stop members (32, 34). When the prongs (20, 22) are inserted into recess (R) of the female member, they snap over the mating recesses of the female member and the tongue (26) is pressed downwardly to cause the release button to snap into the opening (31). With catches (40, 42) engaged, the stops (32, 34) engage bosses (36, 38) preventing prongs (20, 22) from being depressed to release the buckle until button 30 is depressed. Depressing button 30 moves the stops (32, 34) away from the bosses (36, 38) and allows the prongs

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(20, 22) to be moved inwardly into the buckle to release the catches (40, 42). Additional ~~embodiments~~ include a sliding lock and a rotary locking assembly for locking and releasing the prongs.
